

Recommendation A

Connecting our Members with State Leadership Structures

Explanation

In support of our first priority, we've surveyed our entire membership to determine how young people are engaged as leaders in their states. Though a wide variety of state youth leadership configurations exist, we believe that most can be grouped by function:

- Conference planning committee
- Advisory / programming council
- Ambassador team.

Though it is hard to categorize any youth team, for the purposes of providing our members with suggested activities and for clarifying how they can better connect to the work that goes on in their states, we feel we can base our recommendations on these categories.

Therefore, we've created the following three models to give you, the State Leader, an idea of where your N4-HYDC member can be beneficial and to give our members a charge of what to do when they return home.

Many 4-H youth leadership teams can be classified as functioning under more than one of these categories. We welcome you to look at all three suggested models and determine which ideas best suit your state's specific configuration.

The Ambassador Team Model

Includes "County Ambassadors," "Teen Ambassadors," "State 4-H Ambassadors," etc.

- N4-HYDC youth can work with ambassador team members to incorporate a "youth in governance" message into ambassador presentations – perhaps focusing on how unique 4-H is for really valuing the power of young people and what they have to say.
- Train adults to become part of ambassador presentations. Create ambassador messages which are done in youth and adult partnerships – to draw from what adults (especially volunteers) and 4-H youth can offer together.
- Train ambassadors in the core competencies being determined for young people engaged in governance.

The Conference Planning Team Model

Includes “State Congress Planners,” “State Conference Planning Team,” “Junior Leader Conference Design Team,” etc.

- N4-HYDC members are encouraged to teach adults and youth involved in the planning process how each can benefit from the other.
- Assist in transmitting the knowledge gained from N4-HYDC training, utilizing the State Conference as a medium.
- Work with other youth to create and implement a youth leadership team whose role extends beyond conference planning.

The Youth Advisory Board

Includes “State Executive Council,” “Teen Advisory Board,” “Junior Leader Council,” etc.

- Streamline redundancy in the advisory process by working to combine “adult advisory boards” and “youth boards”.
- Train members of these boards in effective work between youth and adults – not only through “youth and adult partnerships” but the variety of other skills which contribute to success in decision-making.
- Identify where young people can provide meaningful input to other bodies which affect their 4-H program (State Foundation Board, Extension Advisory Committee, etc.)